



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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May 6, 2005

TO: Minerals File

THRU: Susan M. White, Mining Program Coordinator *Am*

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

SUBJECT: Justification for Bond Amount and for Variance, Worthington Landscape, Worthington Landscape Mine, S/035/025, Salt Lake County, Utah

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the rationale for the bond and for the variances associated with the referenced small mine notice.

The operation plan says:

Remove surface rock boulders and slightly under surface to prepare area for subdivision roads lots etc. Subdivision plans have already been submitted to city! All holes made by excavation to be leveled as excavated!

As the operator removes rock, excavations are to be filled shortly after they are made, and disturbed areas are left in a condition essentially suitable for seeding. If the Division had to reclaim the area, the required reclamation would be to prepare the seedbed and apply seed. The bond of \$1000 per acre is appropriate for this amount of reclamation.

The operator is basically taking surface rock with a limited amount of rock coming from below the surface. It is not practical or necessary to salvage topsoil. The soil will be disturbed, but it will be basically left in place.

According to correspondence the Division has from Bluffdale City, the area is zoned for residential development, and the operator indicates in the Notice that subdivision plans have been submitted to the city. This does not, however, constitute approval for housing which might justify a variance from seeding and revegetation requirements. I, therefore, recommend that the Division deny this request.

jb
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